

# THE NEBRASKAN

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## JOHNSTON ELECTED.

### Doane Secures Presidency.

The annual meeting of the State Oratorical Association, held at the Wesleyan University the afternoon before the contest, furnished the usual scrap over the float delegate. Heretofore two different colleges have sought the coveted honor, but this year it was given to the State University by common consent. The fight between Fisher and Johnston for the place was very close, but throughout the contest the very best of feeling was maintained between them. Early in the fight one or two dark horses were trotted out in the hope that political lightning might strike them, but they were destined to remain dark horses.



FORSYTH TAKES IN THE CONVENTION.

Doane: vice president, Mallalieu of the State; secretary and treasurer, Smith of Cotner; regular delegate, W. H. Turrell of Wesleyan; float delegate, W. M. Johnston of the State.

### The College Muse.

Will you think of me often, my darling, she said;  
But the duke struck her dumb with a shake of his head,  
"I'd weally be glad to," he drawled with a wink,  
"But most of the time I'm too tired to think."  
—*Ex.*

The balloon went up and then it fell,  
At least the story is such,  
The aeronaut cried as he struck the ground,  
"I've taken a drop too much."  
—*Ex.*

### McMULLEN WINS.

#### Will Represent Nebraska in the Interstate.

The State Oratorical Contest is over and our university is rejoicing over the result, while the other colleges are presumably doing what we used to do with such persistent regularity—waiting for the next contest.

Despite the threatening weather the Lansing was well filled with enthusiastic students and their friends. The yells were as numerous and varied as ever. There is one thing always noticeable at these contests, but more so this year than usual. Doane college, although twenty miles from here, always sends at least one-half of her students to the contest, while our university, three blocks away, sends less than one-fourth her students. Doane comes up well equipped with college yells and songs. She has a perfect organization for expressing in the best manner possible her enthusiasm. We have neither songs nor organization. We go there in little cliques or parties and sit wherever chance or fancy leads us. We trust to our numbers doing for us what organization does for the other colleges.

It was the best contest ever held in the state. Every orator did himself and his college proud, and though three of them were defeated, they have no reason to be ashamed of their effort.

Mr. Shank of Wesleyan, who appeared first on the program, seemed a trifle awkward and his gestures were too frequent and lacked force. His oration, like too many college orations, was too general in its nature and seemed to lack any definite point.

Mr. McMullen, of the State, spoke next, and he captured his audience from start to finish. His delivery was excellent, in fact the best we have ever heard on a state contest. Portions of his oration could undoubtedly be improved, but it would be difficult to find his equal in delivery. When he finished there were perhaps not a dozen people in the house who doubted that he would be the winner.

Mr. Andress, of Doane, spoke next on "Lynch Law in the South." Mr. Andress had scarcely recovered from a severe illness, which had prevented him from training as he otherwise would have done. His voice is not good and his words seem to be forced from him. His oration was good and was ranked highest by the judges.

Mr. Pinch, of Cotner, the last orator of the evening, has a good appearance and a splendid voice, but he does not know how to use it. He spoke too rap-

idly and at times gesticulated rather wildly. His oration was fine as far as rhetoric was concerned, but like Mr. Shanks, was too general in its contents and lacked a definite point. Perhaps the majority of his audience thought he should have been given second place.

The judges awarded first place to Mr. McMullen and second place to Mr. Andress. The following are the ranks:

	Shank	McMullen	Andress	Pinch
Manuscript	3	4	1	2
Delivery	3	2	1	4
Sum of ranks	19	10	15	16

### BLAINE: THE MAN.

#### By Adam McMullen, State University.

The relations between the State and the man make the foundations for what we call citizenship, politics, statesmanship. These relations are various—yes, infinite. Much depends upon the character of the State; much more upon the character of the man.

When a pitiful Louis pipes weakly, "The State; I am the State!" and we can scarce hear the words for the swelling, ominous, terrible sounds of the already impending fall of the poor monarchy which is his, we smile sadly and with commiseration, for it is indeed a pitiful, a sad boast. But when a Wise Man is born, and we hear the resonant notes of his God-guided voice sounding in the council chambers of a young and strong Republic, we hear ringing through his words and see flashing in his eyes the eternal truth that the great and wise man in his strong individuality is himself greater than any possible institution of State. We do not commiserate; we rejoice and are content. Yes, back of the making of the State is the making of the man. This is not against the truism that the whole is greater than its parts; it is only a declaration of the mighty truth that the creator is greater than the created.

There was never in history a government immobile, fixed. Over every code of laws is the dominant spirit of Change. There was never in history a government so wise but that in the slow course of time there has arisen one man within it far wiser than the whole scheme. With his advent there is born reform. Such a man was he whose name I speak with reverence and love—James G. Blaine.

No matter about dates: I speak of the essentials of his manhood.

He was poor from his youth, but poverty is itself poor when it would control or subdue a man. He laid foundations deep and made them strong, for he was to build vastly—beyond the ruddiest dreams of the most ambitious youth. He followed the enforced example of many before him, and himself set an example for many who were to follow, whose genius must be tried by fire ere it could be put to the still severer tests awaiting it. The great ones of earth have not found hard work a hardship, from the holy man of Nazareth, bending over his carpenter's bench, to the great deliverer of latter days, humbly bidding his time as a splitter of rails. Great hearted, God-minded men often find that their periods of greatest development have been in those slow years of patient struggle, when the accomplishment of their purposes seemed at best but a vision.

So the young Blaine worked—worked with his books; worked with the teaching of his school; worked, when another hopeful and helpful life was joined to his own, in the imperfectly successful attempt to eke out comfort for his beloved—working always and through all in the gloriously successful labor of the making of himself, until he was prepared to stand, not as the symbol, but as the embodiment of all that makes the strong man.

He was self-made; he was also self-contained, and that was no less a feature of his strength. For the one characteristic he was respected; for the other

he was feared; both made him what he was.

At last the materials were gathered and assorted and the real work of the builder was begun.

Fate—no, destiny took him to a home it that State with whose name his own is now indissolubly united—a State barren of soil but fertile in great ideas—poor in material resources, but rich beyond compare in American principles. Here his lot was cast; here it was that he became united with those men the lines of whose lives were to be conformed to his own. Do you call it chance—accident? Accident has its place in the weaving of the gossamer web of human devices; not in the development of God's great plans. No, it was not accident, not chance—it was Destiny.

Once of old, in the sombre skies of the East, there shone a star, effulgent, glorious, and the sad eyes of wise men, uplifted, saw in its light the dawn of hope, and heard the voice of a Heavenly host, prophetic of peace. It led them to the cradle of the lowly born, where, so meanly laid, they found Him who was born Redeemer of the world.

Centuries were gone, when in the deep-clouded skies above that nation of the West, another star shone fitfully, then gleamed with brighter rays, and hovered. Wise men saw and heeded and were led, as were they of old, to the birth-chamber. Now was born, not a man-child, but an idea, more meanly cradled than in a manger, but radiant with heavenly light, while the voices of all God's hosts sang once again of peace on earth. Now the wise man whose name I have spoken—whose name will ever be spoken worshipfully where freedom and equality hold sway—knelt in noble devotion before this new redeemer. Those of old brought gifts of frankincense and gold; he brought the gift of his mighty strength of soul, of his sublime manhood. Now was born the Republican idea of the abolition of human slavery, the equality of man. Lo! the horizon glowed with the crimson dawn of a new period in human history.

We delude ourselves with dreams, hopes, anticipations, which we can of ourselves in nowise fulfill. They are delusions because they are all so unreal. So much is unreal; even a bare cold fact is of itself an unreality. There is nothing real and enduring but the triumph of principle. It was for this triumph of principle that the man Blaine contended; and he never contended vainly. I cannot dwell upon the mean detail of his daily life—his eating, his drinking, even the falling of his tears, for they were no part of him—nothing had a place within him but principle.

Patient, persistent, pitiless in the accomplishment of his great purposes, he knew no thought, no suggestion of defeat, for he knew, as all the wise ones of earth have known, that a mighty principle could never be defeated. Into his conflicts he threw the full weight of his wonderful personality and all the strength of his unalterable convictions then he was indomitable.

Through all the slow course of years when Reform was brewing, he showed the character of the hero; through all the bitterest of his encounters with those whose struggles were against him he showed the character of the stoic; through all the loving labor of liberation, he showed the character of the man—the noblest word of all.

The reformer is always a man with ideas in advance of his own time. The reformer is always the butt of laughter and scorn. But if his ideas conform to the truth, the impossible vagary of today's fanatic will inevitably crystalize into history for other generations to ponder. "Insincerity had to cease: sincerity of some sort had to begin."

The men of the time of Blaine's youth—the men who begat the sturdy child Abolition, seemed hopelessly too few, but who will say what one indomitable soul, quick with the truth, can do? Into the struggle they threw all of their dauntless manhood—pulses of love, passions of fire, and success was inevitable. Human freedom was no more than the dream of a dreamer—no more than the vacuous and unheeded paragraph made up of sounding words: now it is History.

Of course the man Blaine was hated, how could he escape? Was ever a man

of truth loved, and loved only? What need for me to go again with you over the painful period of his persecution, when lies, clothed in fires of perdition, were sought to be fastened upon him? Was not his vindication complete? Who will live longer in the grateful memory of men, he or his revilers?

His enemies have said he was ambitious, in that he sought the presidency of the nation to the preservation of which the best of his life had been given. Perhaps it was ambition; I think we could well find a kindlier name. By whatever name it was called, the fulfillment of the desire was not to be—death came first. Therefore men have said that he failed.

But what is it to be president? Presidents and kings have served the lowly end of stopping gaps in history; that is never the end of the man of Ideas. Which is reckoned greater, to be a Luther or a Paul, a Homer or a Shakespeare, a Webster or a Blaine, or to be one of the vast herd of obscure kings and presidents whom heritage or chance has made? Which is accounted greater, Washington the President, or Washington of Valley Forge? Would Blaine the President be worthy of more honor than Blaine the Abolitionist, or Blaine the Apostle of International—of Universal Amity and Peace? Such he was; he lived so long that he could die conscious of the success of his most honorable and honored purposes—the enactment of human freedom, and the establishment of the doctrines of reciprocity and international arbitration. Is not that enough to be accomplished in the brief span of life? Is not that enough to ask as the fruition of one great mind and one indomitable will? And yet men say that he has suffered failure and defeat! Defeat! Defeat! Defeat! Death came to him, pitiless, as to us all, but not defeat! When "beneath the curtain of that low green tent which never outward swings" there passed the soul of James G. Blaine, then passed one of earth's noblest sons, whose spirit could never know defeat. Defeat! While the em-purpled dome of the peaceful sky arches over us, a free people; while the golden sun shines upon us, a people at peace forever with all the world; while our glowing firesides ring with the laughter of happy children and our own hearts throb to a measure of content—happiness and content given us through the triumph of true republican ideas; while we stand, hand clasping hand, citizens of one perfect and indivisible Union, let us not whisper of failure and defeat! How could he know defeat, when the foundations of his life were laid, not upon his own strength—mighty though it was, not upon his own ambitions—noble though they may have been, but back of all human strength and ambitions, upon the eternal verities of God!

### In Other Worlds.

Wisconsin has 1,287 students.

Cornell is to have a students tribunal in general character like the college senate of Amhurst.—*Ex.*

The students of Cornell University in mass meeting adopted resolutions expressing regret at the disgraceful occurrence at the Frenchman banquet, and censuring both the individual perpetrators of the outrage and the authors of the exaggerated press statements which they say have placed the University in a false light before the world.

At the Kansas S. U. the faculty have decided to have a half-holiday Wednesday afternoon and to hold classes Saturday morning instead.

The Wisconsin *Aegis* is in hard financial straits. The editors are talking of trying the coupon plus the "most popular young lady in college" scheme in order to bring in the schekels.

The first professorship in history was established by Oxford in 1248.

Prussia has just erected at Charlottenburgh the finest institution of technology in the world, costing \$4,000,000.—*Ex.*

Scientists have discovered that the memory is stronger in summer than in winter. Too much food, too much physical exercise and too much education are most detrimental to the memory.—*Ex.*

At Purdue there are 473 secret societies, all in a flourishing condition.—*U. of M. Wrinkle.*



THE CHAIR CANTS HIS VOTE FOR W. M. JOHNSTON.

It is not our purpose to go into the details of the fight. It is over, and the sooner all feeling on the matter is dropped the better it will be. The decision of the whole matter was left to a caucus of the Doane, Cotner, and Wesleyan delegations, held just before the convention was called to order, and they decided in favor of Johnston.

The convention was called to order at 3 p. m. by President McMullen. A large number of students from the various colleges, especially from the State University, was present. The business of the convention was transacted in a very short time. It was the most business-like convention the association has held for years. But little of importance was



MONTMORENCY MAKES AN IMPASSIONED PLEA.

done beyond the election of officers. No other colleges were admitted to the association, and only one amendment to the by-laws was passed. It was provided that in the future no judge should give a mark lower than 70 per cent on any oration. Nothing was done in regard to the Inter-State Association, neither was the float delegateship made to rotate among the various colleges as the other offices do, although all the delegations seemed to favor this before the convention met.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Farr of